Appendix L Changes Between Draft EIS and Final EIS By Chapter and subheading in the order of Appearance in the Chapter



Executive Summary

Changes Made Between the Draft EIS and the Final EIS

This is a new section that briefly describes the major changes between the Draft EIS and the Final EIS. It also directs the reader to Appendix L for a comprehensive listing by Chapter and subheading of all changes made in between the Draft EIS and Final EIS.

Alternative H – Selected Alternative in Record of Decision

This is a new section. It is the alternative description for Alternative H. It includes several new tables and management strategies.

Identification of the Environmentally Preferred Alternative

This section has been updated, based on the incorporation of Alternative H, the selected alternative in the Record of Decision.

Identification of the Selected Alternative

This section is updated to reflect Alternative H as the selected alternative in the Record of Decision.

How Alternative H Addresses the Forest Service Natural Resource Agenda

This section has been updated to reflect Alternative H, the selected alternative in the Record of Decision.

How Alternative H Addresses the Government Performance Results Act (GPRA)

This section has been updated to reflect Alternative H, the selected alternative in the Record of Decision.

How Alternative H Addresses the Range of Desired Future Conditions identified in the Initial Analysis of the Management Situation (February 1999)

This is a new section that reflects Alternative H, the selected alternative in the Record of Decision.

Comparison of Alternative Components Table

This table has been updated to include Alternative H

Summary of Effects by Alternative Table

This table has been updated to include Alternative H

An additional indicator was added under Wildlife Habitat: "Percent of sagebrush acres in potential sage grouse nesting habitat (16-24 percent cc).

A correction was made on the acres treated for each alternative for the indicator "Number of acres in greater than 15% cc treated with Rx fire."

Several new indicators were added to the Economics Section base on new economic analysis in the Final EIS.

Corrections were made in the Air Quality section for "Annual Average Acres Burned" and the indictor " PM_{10} tons released."



Introduction

Add several paragraphs on the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act and its relationship to the National Grasslands.

Decisions Made in a Grassland Plan Amendment

Changed the word "objectives" to "goals" in last paragraph in last sentence on page.

Issues/Public Involvement

Issue 1 – Riparian and Watershed Management

Issue Indicator: Changed second indicator to read "Estimated potential erosion in tons per year <u>over natural erosion rates</u> based on treatments proposed in each alternative."

<u>Issue 2 – Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat Management</u>

Wildlife Habitat Management

Issue Indicator Part A: Changed to read "percent of sagebrush acres in potential sage grouse nesting habitat (16-24 percent sagebrush canopy cover) at the end of first decade."

Issue 3 – Social and Economic Factors

Issue Indicator Part A: Combined "Changes in PILT," "Changes in 25% Fund" to new indicator "Estimated Federal payments to Oneida County."

Issue Indicator Part B: Dropped original indicators because of new economic analysis and added two new indicator "Financial Efficiency Analysis for Costs and Revenues by alternative" and "Estimated Annual Grazing Program Costs, Revenues and Benefits by alternative."

Issue Indicator Part C: Dropped original indicators because of new economic analysis and added new indicator "Economic Efficiency Analysis (Present Net Value) by alternative.



Introduction

Corrected location of Headquarters' Office

Changes Made Between the Draft EIS and the Final EIS

This is a new section that briefly describes the major changes between the Draft EIS and the Final EIS. It also directs the reader to Appendix L for a comprehensive listing by Chapter and subheading of all changes made in between the Draft EIS and Final EIS.

Elements Common to All Alternatives

Corrected first sentence in first paragraph from "seven" to "eight" final alternatives.

Deleted third paragraph. See Appendix J for the Biological Evaluation and Biological Assessment for Alternative H, the Selected Alternative in the Record of Decision.

Deleted last sentence in fourth paragraph. New economic analysis in the Final EIS replaced economic analysis in the Draft EIS.

Deleted the word "permit" in number 1 under base level funding.

Elements Common to Action Alternatives

Added Alternative H to the heading.

Clarified the constraint on bulbous bluegrass treatment at the top of page 2-5.

Clarified buffer zones paragraph by adding "specifically in the 16-24 percent canopy cover class."

Alternative B – Proposed Action (From Notice of Intent)

Added paragraph to explain and clarify the actual number of acres treated over the previous decade.

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Several new indicators were added to the Economics Section base on new economic analysis in the Final EIS.

Corrections were made in the Air Quality section for "Annual Average Acres Burned" and the indictor "PM₁₀ tons released."



General Description of the Grassland Today

Added discussion of Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937.

Made editorial correction next to last paragraph in section from "To date, only 12,000 acres have escaped the plow and subsequent stabilization efforts" to "To date, only 12,000 acres have escaped the plow and remain in a native vegetation community."

A Look Back in Time

Added definition of "dry farming" in footnote.

Climate

Deleted original discussion and replaced with updated version that includes Wind Rose and Mixing Heights graphic for the Curlew Valley.

Global Change

Added discussion paragraphs on Global Change

Air Quality/Visibility

Deleted original discussion on Air Quality and replaced with updated version of Air Quality/Visibility to address PM _{2.5}, Clean Air Act, corrected "air sheds" to "areas," Added table on State of Idaho and National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Smoke Management

Added discussion on Smoke Management.

Soil Microbiotic Crusts

Added discussion on microbiotic crusts.

Ground Water Hydrology

Added paragraph on State of Idaho ground water/deep well monitoring results.

Water Quality

Made editorial correction in second paragraph from "Curlew area" to "Curlew Valley Watershed."

Included discussion of Wolcot Watershed Assessment on the South Fork of Rock Creek that identified this waterbody as being listed on the State's 303(d) list for water quality limited streams.

Vegetation Cover Types

<u>Sagebrush – Curlew National Grassland</u>

Added clarification on Wyoming sagebrush.

Added paragraph on threetip sagebrush

Clarified discussion of Sagebrush "X"

Natural Disturbance in Vegetation Cover Types

Added introductory paragraph.

Added discussion on the role of fire.

Added discussion on historic fire regime.

Added discussion on wildfire hazard.

Updated discussion of fire history on Curlew National Grassland and Greater Curlew Valley Area.

Moved "Noxious Weeds" and references to prescribed fire activity from Natural Disturbance Section to Human-Caused Disturbance Section.

Human Caused Disturbances in Vegetation Cover Types

Added discussion on Fire Management Program on Curlew National Grassland.

Added discussion on Urban Wildland Interface.

Added "Noxious Weed" discussion.

Added discussion on Oil and Gas Leasing.

Added discussion on Saleable Minerals or Mineral Materials.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Introduction

Updated number of species occurring on the Grassland in introductory paragraph.

Updated paragraph on the Curlew Valley as an "important bird area."

Deleted paragraph on non-native bird species.

Threatened, Endangered Proposed and Sensitive Species

Updated status of species including whooping crane, yellow-billed cuckoo.

Added updated paragraph on occurrence of bald eagles in the Stone Reservoir area.

Updated paragraph on Ute ladies'-tresses with field-review determination of suitable habitat.

Added paragraph discussion on yellow-cuckoo.

Added paragraph on lynx habitat.

Sensitive Species

Updated number of sensitive species for the Caribou National Forest and occurrences of these species on the Curlew National Grassland.

Updated paragraph on northern goshawk.

Updated paragraph on western big-eared bat.

Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse

Small editorial correction in first five paragraphs.

Updated acre figures in Table entitled "Estimated Acres of Sharp-tailed Grouse Nesting/Summer/Brood-rearing and Winter Habitat at the Grassland and Creater Curlew Valley landscape scales.

Updated paragraph on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determination for listing of the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

Management Indicator Species (MIS)

Added sentence to reference Wildlife Process Paper on big game use on and adjacent to the CNG.

Sagebrush

Added discussion on Sauder (2000) bird surveys in the Greater Curlew Valley Area.

Updated Table entitled "Sagebrush Obligates and Habitat Components with several small editorial changes.

Included Welch (1999) literature cite on sagebrush obligate habitat.

Sage grouse

Updated findings of Connelly and Braun, 1997, on decline of sage grouse populations in Idaho.

Deleted original paragraph and added updated paragraphs on the State of Idaho Department of Fish and Game Sage Grouse Management Plan, including Memorandum of Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding.

Added paragraph on status of Washington State sage grouse listing.

Added paragraph on A. Apa Sage grouse ecology doctoral dissertation and identification of sage grouse populations on the Grassland as non-migratory.

Added definition on "non-migratory" in footnote.

Habitat Use

Moved paragraph that begins, "In the 1930's and 1940's..." to new section entitled "Factors Potentially Affecting Population."

Corrected canopy cover percentages for sage grouse winter habitat.

Factors Potentially Affecting Population

This section is new and brings several subheadings and paragraphs together into one section.

Changes from historical habitat conditions – this is a new discussion. It includes a discussion on changes from historical habitat conditions. It includes a new table that shows sagebrush canopy cover distribution on the Grassland over time.

Livestock Grazing/Residual Vegetation - this is an updated section and includes additional residual vegetation measurements taken in the Fall of 2001.

Wildfire – This is a new discussion.

Hunting – Updates daily bag limits for sage grouse

Predation – Updates conclusion of predator studies in the Greater Curlew Valley area.

<u>Population Trends over the Greater Curlew Valley Area and the Curlew National</u> Grassland

Added additional information on sage grouse population trends on the Grassland. Includes new graphic comparing population trends from 1970-1998 between Idaho Fish and Game and Forest Service.

Added clarification on the reproductive status of males on breeding populations.

Added two paragraphs clarifying the use and methodology of sage grouse population numbers.

Updated table entitled "Sage Grouse Lek Survey Results in and adjacent to the Curlew National Grassland, Oneida County, Idaho from 1980 through 1999."

Residual Vegetation

This section was updated and moved to the section entitled, "Factors Potentially Affecting Populations."

Species at Risk (SAR)

Updated first two introductory paragraphs and referenced Wildlife Process Paper that discusses the development of the species-at-risk list.

Sagebrush – Updated paragraph on short-eared owls and included recorded occurrences of the long-billed curlew. Updated pgymy rabbit occurrences

including the use of a predictive model for potentially suitable habitat on the Grassland.

Riparian – Updated recorded observances of Scott's orioles and MacGillivrays warblers. Included discussion of Sauder (2000) bird surveys on brown-headed cowbirds.

Fisheries

Made several small editorial corrections in the first three paragraphs and the last paragraph for clarification.

Added discussion of fish inventories made in 1999 and 2001.

Economics

Replaced this section with an updated version that includes a social assessment and updated economic information.

Travel

Added Curlew Roads Analysis reference in first paragraph.

Livestock Grazing

Grazing Associations on the Grassland – corrected information on the Buist Fields Association membership.

Rangeland Capability and Suitability – Corrected paragraph on the determination of rangeland suitability in that it is a decision to graze livestock but does not determine livestock carrying capacity.

Corrected table reference number.

Added literature cites for the calculation of forage production using Westside District transect data files and for the Holbrook, Idaho study.

Issue 2 – Vegetation Management/Wildlife Habitat

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Updated discussion on sagebrush canopy cover and relationship to herbaceous understory production, past and current fire suppression in relationship to sagebrush succession, and the importance of sagebrush canopy cover to certain wildlife species.

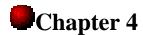
Wildlife Habitat Management (Part C)

Replaced discussion with updated version.

Issue 3 – Economic and Social Values

Economics

This section was replaced with an updated version.



Introduction

Added additional information on chapter arrangement for reader.

Scope and Scale of Analysis

Added statement that rationale for conclusions can also be found in Chapter 3, Affected Environment.

Direct and Indirect Effects

Added discussion in response to EPA letter of April 6, 2001 regarding direct, indirect and cumulative effects at the Grassland scale.

Cumulative Effects

Added statement about augmentation of cumulative effects section beginning on page 4-191.

ALTERNATIVE A

Summary Description of Treatments

Changed header and organization of Table 4.1

Added statement on where reader can find data used, methodology or other explanatory or concept discussions.

Watershed Condition

Added literature cites throughout this section

Scale of Analysis:

Added additional literature cites.

Scope:

Added discussion paragraph on Forest Service WEPP model

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Corrected several acre figures in this discussion based on additional WEPP modeling.

Irretrievable and Irreversible Effects:

Added statement that no actions would have irreversible effects.

Riparian Condition

Added additional literature cites throughout this section.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added discussion on water quality.

Added additional information on riparian properly functioning condition.

Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat Management

Added additional literature cites throughout this section.

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new table, Table 4.4 on VDDT model outcome on sagebrush canopy cover classes on the Grassland.

Added paragraph on disturbance and succession.

Vegetation Understory

Added additional literature cites throughout the section.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Scope and Scale of Analysis:

Corrected paragraph on bald eagles.

Added lynx, gray wolf, and yellow-billed cuckoo as other potential federally endangered, candidate, and sensitive species.

Moved discussion of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse to this section.

Defined ranking of Species-at-risk in footnote.

Sagebrush Habitat:

Added paragraph on fragmentation of pygmy rabbit habitat.

Connectivity and Fragmentation of Habitats:

Added discussion on patch size and patch size analysis.

Added paragraph discussion on the use of herbicides.

Riparian Habitat:

Added information from Sauder bird surveys.

Sage Grouse Viability:

Discussed the use of Connelly 2000 guidelines versus Braun from 1985 Forest Plan.

Added statement from Apa 1998 study that a diversity of sagebrush age structure and canopy cover classes are needed for nesting and brood-rearing.

Added discussion on seven-inch residual vegetation understory from Connelly 2000 guidelines and additional historical information from Appendix I.

Added statement on rationale for treatment sizes.

Added discussion and new Table 4.8 from Nelle, *et al*, 2000 study of burned and unburned areas.

Added discussion and new Table 4.9 regarding Baxter 1996 findings on the use of herbicide on sagebrush.

Added paragraph on the effects of sagebrush treatments on sage grouse habitat use from Wallestad, 1975, Fischer, 1996, and Braun and Beck, 1996.

Added section on the effects on aerial insect prey populations for Bat species-at-risk.

Effects Common to All Alternatives:

Added discussion of meeting between the Forest Service and Idaho Fish & Game on 10/24/01.

Added paragraph on past seedings of non-native species.

Added statement regarding Timothy analysis of grazing system and percent of suitable habitat not grazed through the nesting season.

Added additional discussion regarding tree rows.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Effects on Sagebrush Habitat:

Added new Table 4.10 on changes in sagebrush canopy cover on Grassland and GCVA.

Deleted paragraph on habitat patch size because it was included in discussion early in this section under Connectivity and Fragmentation of Habitats section.

Effects on Sagebrush Species (except Sage grouse)

Made corrections to Table 4.12.

Effects of Tree Rows at End of Decade:

Deleted paragraph on tree row plantings because it was moved to the Effects Common to All Alternatives section.

Economic and Social Values

The effects discussion in this section of the Draft EIS was deleted and replaced with a new analysis using more current and local information. The new analysis includes the use of FEAST and IMPLANpro modeling. It includes more concise information regarding the costs and benefits of all resource programs, including recreation and other resources not addressed in the Draft EIS. New tables and analysis are more relative to local conditions. The new analysis includes additional social assessment effects for the local area.

Livestock Grazing

Added note to reader on where to find effects of livestock grazing on riparian, vegetation understory and wildlife habitat resources in the Alternative discussion.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Figure 4.7 and 4.8 from the Draft EIS were deleted.

Added paragraph clarifying allotment management planning will be conducted at site-specific level and how utilization levels would be implemented and monitored.

ALTERNATIVE B

Summary Description of Treatments

Changed header and organization of Table 4.24.

Added editor's note on where to find rationale for conclusions in alternative effects discussion.

Watershed Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Corrected several acre figure changes based on additional WEPP modeling.

Irretrievable and Irreversible Effects:

Added statement on irreversible effects that was omitted in the DEIS.

Riparian Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added discussion of water quality

Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat Management

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.25 on VDDT model Outcome on Sagebrush Canopy Cover Classes on the Grassland.

Added paragraph on disturbance and succession.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.26 on changes in sagebrush canopy cover on the Grassland and GCVA.

Livestock Grazing

Added note to reader on where to find effects of livestock grazing on riparian, vegetation understory and wildlife habitat resources in the Alternative discussion.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added paragraph clarifying allotment management planning will be conducted at site-specific level and how utilization levels would be implemented and monitored.

ALTERNATIVE C

Summary Description of Treatments

Changed header and organization of Table 4.30.

Added editor's note on where to find rationale for conclusions in alternative effects discussion.

Riparian and Watershed Management

Watershed Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Corrected several acre figure changes based on additional WEPP modeling.

Irretrievable and Irreversible Effects:

Added statement on irreversible effects that was omitted in the DEIS.

Riparian Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added discussion of water quality

Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat Management

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.31 on VDDT model Outcome on Sagebrush Canopy Cover Classes on the Grassland.

Added paragraph on disturbance and succession.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.32 on changes in sagebrush canopy cover on the Grassland and GCVA.

Livestock Grazing

Added note to reader on where to find effects of livestock grazing on riparian, vegetation understory and wildlife habitat resources in the Alternative discussion.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added paragraph clarifying allotment management planning will be conducted at site-specific level and how utilization levels would be implemented and monitored.

ALTERNATIVE D

Summary Description of Treatments

Changed header and organization of Table 4.36.

Added editor's note on where to find rationale for conclusions in alternative effects discussion.

Riparian and Watershed Management

Watershed Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Corrected several acre figure changes based on additional WEPP modeling.

Riparian Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added discussion of water quality

Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat Management

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.37 on VDDT model Outcome on Sagebrush Canopy Cover Classes on the Grassland.

Added paragraph on disturbance and succession.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.38 on changes in sagebrush canopy cover on the Grassland and GCVA.

Livestock Grazing

Added note to reader on where to find effects of livestock grazing on riparian, vegetation understory and wildlife habitat resources in the Alternative discussion.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added paragraph clarifying allotment management planning will be conducted at site-specific level and how utilization levels would be implemented and monitored.

ALTERNATIVE E

Summary Description of Treatments

Changed header and organization of Table 4.42.

Added editor's note on where to find rationale for conclusions in alternative effects discussion.

Riparian and Watershed Management

Watershed Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Corrected several acre figure changes based on additional WEPP modeling.

Irretrievable and Irreversible Effects:

Added statement on irreversible effects that was omitted in the DEIS.

Riparian Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added discussion of water quality

Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat Management

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.43 on VDDT model Outcome on Sagebrush Canopy Cover Classes on the Grassland.

Added paragraph on disturbance and succession.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.44 on changes in sagebrush canopy cover on the Grassland and GCVA.

Livestock Grazing

Added note to reader on where to find effects of livestock grazing on riparian, vegetation understory and wildlife habitat resources in the Alternative discussion.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added paragraph clarifying allotment management planning will be conducted at site-specific level and how utilization levels would be implemented and monitored.

ALTERNATIVE F

Summary Description of Treatments

Changed header and organization of Table 4.48.

Added editor's note on where to find rationale for conclusions in alternative effects discussion.

Riparian and Watershed Management

Watershed Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Corrected several acre figure changes based on additional WEPP modeling.

Irretrievable and Irreversible Effects:

Added statement on irreversible effects that was omitted in the DEIS.

Riparian Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added discussion of water quality

Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat Management

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.49 on VDDT model Outcome on Sagebrush Canopy Cover Classes on the Grassland.

Added paragraph on disturbance and succession.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.50 on changes in sagebrush canopy cover on the Grassland and GCVA.

Livestock Grazing

Added note to reader on where to find effects of livestock grazing on riparian, vegetation understory and wildlife habitat resources in the Alternative discussion.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added paragraph clarifying allotment management planning will be conducted at site-specific level and how utilization levels would be implemented and monitored.

ALTERNATIVE G

Summary Description of Treatments

Changed header and organization of Table 4.54.

Added editor's note on where to find rationale for conclusions in alternative effects discussion.

Riparian and Watershed Management

Watershed Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Corrected several acre figure changes based on additional WEPP modeling.

Irretrievable and Irreversible Effects:

Added statement on irreversible effects that was omitted in the DEIS.

Riparian Condition

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added discussion of water quality

Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat Management

Sagebrush Canopy Cover

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.55 on VDDT model Outcome on Sagebrush Canopy Cover Classes on the Grassland.

Added paragraph on disturbance and succession.

Wildlife Habitat Management

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added new Table 4.56 on changes in sagebrush canopy cover on the Grassland and GCVA.

Livestock Grazing

Added note to reader on where to find effects of livestock grazing on riparian, vegetation understory and wildlife habitat resources in the Alternative discussion.

Direct and Indirect Effects:

Added paragraph clarifying allotment management planning will be conducted at site-specific level and how utilization levels would be implemented and monitored.

ALTERNATIVE H

This is a new alternative section and describes the effects on all resources.

EFFECTS ON OTHER RESOURCES

Air Quality/Visibility Analysis

Added discussion on PM 2.5.

Included Table 4.66 – Summary of Emission Produced from Smoke By Alternative.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Added information to the introduction on how cumulative effects were analyzed.

Moved prescribed fire from Natural Actions to Human Actions.

Added Table 4.67. Cumulative Effects for Sage Grouse (Restoration Guidelines)

Added Table 4.68. Factors Potentially Affecting Sage Grouse Habitat and Numbers on CNG.

SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

Updated paragraph under Endangered Species Act.

Added information under Clean Water Act paragraph

Updated Wetlands and Floodplains paragraph.



This chapter has been updated to show additional team members and consultants who participated in developing the Final EIS.

Chapter 6 – Public Involvement

This chapter has been updated to reflect the public meetings and other public involvement activities that occurred after the publication of the Draft EIS. It also contains a roster of individuals, non-governmental groups, state, and federal agencies who submitted comments on the Draft EIS.

Chapter 7 – Works Cited and Consulted

This chapter has been updated to reflect additional references used in the preparation of the Final EIS.

Chapter 8 – Glossary

Several additional definitions were added to this chapter to help the reader better understand terminology used in the Final EIS.

Chapter 9 – Index

The index has been updated to correspond with page numbers in the Final EIS.

Appendices

Appendices A-H have been updated to reflect changes made in the Final EIS. In particular, Appendix B, Economics, has been revised based on the economic analysis displayed in the Final EIS. In addition, several new appendices have been added including the following:

Appendix I – Sage Grouse Population Trends

Appendix J – Biological Evaluation and Biological Assessment

Appendix K – Risk Assessment Example for Tebuthiruon

Appendix L – A compendium of changes between the Draft EIS and Final EIS

Appendix M – Content Analysis of Public Comments on the Draft EIS